

## Community of Worship

Colossians 3:15-17

### Scripture

<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (NIV)

### Main Idea

#### Background & Focus

Colossians 3 is another one of those instances where Paul is moving from the truth of the gospel to the reality it creates in community. Since each of us is united to Christ by faith, we are being transformed into His image (3:10). Everyone joined to Christ is a part of a new humanity where old distinctions fade away; where Christ is everything and in everyone (3:11). This community becomes a new alternative “society” where a new way of life is learned and lived. This life is described in 3:12-4:6. At the heart of this new community’s life is the worship of God (3:15-17). That’s the part we’ll focus in on. The central thrust of this study is to explore how we, as a community, can worship God together and encourage each other to worship God in all of life.

### Starters

- When you hear the word worship, what are the first things that come to your mind?

### Discussion

Q1: The word “rule” in verse 15 literally means “act as arbiter”. Why do we need an “arbiter” in our hearts to keep peace in community? And why is it important that it is the peace of Christ, not just plain old peace?

Q2: Verse 15 says, “since as members of one body you were called to peace”. Look up Matt. 5:23, 24). Jesus said that our calling to peace with one another is directly related to our worship of God. Why do you think peace in the body of Christ is so important to God?

Q3: Paul says that Christ’s word should “richly dwell within you” (the “you” is plural, meaning “among you” – as a community). Why do you think God means for us to learn and apply His word in a community (teach and admonish one another – v16)? And what kinds of things would help make our engagement with God’s word rich and deep when we gather as a community group?

Q4: How important is corporate singing to you in your own pursuit of worshipping God? How does singing help the word of Christ dwell more richly in us and our church?

Q5: Verse 17 says that whatever we do, we should do it as worship. How can we worship Jesus doing what we do Monday-Friday (whether it be working, raising children, or both)? Help each other brainstorm how our workplaces and homes can become places where we worship Jesus.

### Prayer

Being thankful is mentioned three times in this passage. Thankfulness is at the core of what drives us to worship. Using the outline below share 2 things you are thankful for with the group (one for each category):

- 1) Concerning Who God Is
- 2) Concerning What God has done (as told in Scripture OR in your life)

Instead of asking God for things in our prayer time, let’s spend time as a group worshipping Him with thanksgiving for who He is and the great things He has done.

Optional: Close your group time by singing a song of praise.